

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A release mechanism for an interface to enable a user to quickly remove said interface from said users' face, comprising or including:

5 at least one strap having two ends where one end in use is flexibly coupled to releasably connecting means provided at least on one side of said mask, and the other of said two ends flexibly coupled to attachment means at the other side of said mask, said strap extending around the back of the user's head,

10 a cord attached to said releasable connecting means which when said mask is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said releasable connecting means causes said at least one strap to be released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said users' face.

2. A release mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said interface is a full face mask.

3. A release mechanism according to any one of claims 1 or 2 wherein said releasably connecting means is a harnessing clip comprising a male connector and female connector capable  
15 of being coupled together.

4. A release mechanism according to claim 3 wherein one of said two ends of said at least one strap is attached to one of said male connector and said female connector.

5. A release mechanism according to any one of claims 3 to 4 wherein the other one of said male connector and said female connector is flexibly attached to said mask.

20 6. A release mechanism according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said flexible attachment is achieved by engaging means adapted to slidably engage one of said male connector and said female connector with said mask.

7. A release mechanism according to claim 6 wherein said engaging means is adapted to allow said at least one strap substantial movement with respect to said mask while still providing  
25 a compressive force to seal said mask to said users' face.

8. A release mechanism according to any one of claims 6 or 7 wherein said engaging means includes an elongate member slidably engaged to said interface and engaged to at least one releasably connecting means.

9. said member is elongate having a first end and a second end, a closed loop located at said first end and said harnessing clip located at said second end.

10. said closed loop and one of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said elongate member.

11. said engaging means is a loop adapted to pass over and slidingly engage with said interface.

12. said engaging means includes restraining means, said restraining means adapted to in use accommodate said elongate member or said loop, said restraining means adapted in use to restrain said member or said loop in at least one dimension, but allow said member or said loop to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining means adapted to in use easily disengage with said member or said loop.

13. said attachment means is a loop in which one of said two ends of said strap can be attached to.

14. said attachment means is a releasably connecting means.

15. A mask having a release mechanism that enables a user to quickly remove said mask from said user's face, comprising or including:

at least one strap having two ends each adapted to, in use, be flexibly coupled to releasable connecting means at least on one side of said mask and attachment means at the other side of said mask, and around the back of the user's head,

a cord attached to said releasable connecting means, at least one of said attachment means, which when said mask is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said releasable connecting means

causes said at least one strap to be released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said user's face.

16. A patient interface for delivering a supply of gases to a user comprising or including:

securement means attached to or around the head of said user,

5 engaging means adapted to slidably engage said securement means with said patient interface, release mechanism coupled between said securement means and said engaging means which when actuated by said user causes the separation of said engaging means and said securement means.

17. A patient interface according to claim 16 wherein said release mechanism comprises or  
10 includes:

a harnessing clip comprising a male connector and a female connector capable of being coupled together, one of said male connector and said female connector attached to said securement means, and

15 a cord attached to the other of said male connector and said female connector, which when said interface is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said male connector and said female connector are disengaged and said securement means released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said user's face.

18. A patient interface according to claims 16 or 17 wherein said engaging means comprises or includes:

20 an elongate member slidably engaged to said interface, and restraining means, said restraining means adapted to in use accommodate said member, said restraining means adapted in use to restrain said member in at least one dimension, but allow said member to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining means adapted to in use easily disengage with said member.

19. A patient interface according to claim 18 wherein said elongate member is elongate having a first end and a second end, a closed loop located at said first end and said harnessing clip at said second end.

20. A patient interface according to claim 11 wherein said closed loop and one of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said elongate member.

21. A patient interface according to claims 16 or 17 wherein said engaging means comprises or includes:

a loop adapted to pass over and slidably engage with said interface, and

restraining means, said restraining means adapted to in use accommodate said loop, said restraining means adapted in use to restrain said loop in at least one dimension, but allow said loop to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining means adapted to in use easily disengage with said loop.

22. A patient interface according to claim 21 wherein said loop is elliptical in shape having a first end and a second end where a closed loop is located at said first end and said harnessing clip is located at said second end.

23. A patient interface according to claim 22 wherein said closed loop and one of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said loop.

24. A release mechanism as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.

25. A mask having a release mechanism described with reference to the accompanying figures.

26. A patient interface as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.